

Shared Framework Title	Legal Empowerment
Amount Requested	<i>251,495.00 USD</i>
Detail on Amount Requested (Optional)	As submitted in the Strategy 2016-2020 and the Action Plan for 2016
Background (Optional)	<p>After having passed through the selection criteria and after participating at the legal empowerment shared framework in November 2015 Moldova became part of the new shared framework on legal empowerment approved by the Global Board in December 2015.</p> <p>In Moldova community-based paralegalism is part of the national legal aid system and there are evolving mechanisms that secure their independence and accountability. It is expected that this experience will particularly benefit other countries in the shared framework.</p> <p>SFM is working with the National Legal Aid Council (NLAC) and the Ministry of Justice to develop the primary legal aid system focused on legal empowerment of marginalized groups. In 2015, the network of 32 community paralegals fully transitioned under the NLAC, being currently financed by the Government. The relevant strategic documents adopted by the Parliament envisage a gradual extension of the network. However, NLAC incurs challenges as it takes over complete administration of the network.</p>
Summary of Plans and Relation to Overall Shared Framework Goals (100 words)	During 2016, SFM is planning firstly to assess the legal needs of the youth and then to update all the training materials and the Internet platform according to the assessment's results. Afterwards, SFM in cooperation with NLAC is aiming to increase the number of paralegals up to 42, of which 10 paralegals will be specialized in delivering special legal aid to vulnerable groups. Community paralegals will be supported by a back-up team of hand-picked lawyers. Rural areas without community paralegals will be reached by a mobile legal clinic. Additionally, our efforts will be oriented towards developing a Paralegal Association and institutionalization of paralegal profession.
Activities Proposed (500 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the number of paralegals up to 42 and specialize 10 paralegals to deliver legal aid to vulnerable groups; - Develop the concept of the mobile legal clinic to also cover the rural areas lacking community-based paralegals; - Set-up the paralegals back-up team to support and help community-based paralegals; - Assess the legal empowerment needs of the younger generation and other vulnerable groups; - Upgrade and adjust to current legal needs all training materials and the online legal aid platform; - Identify and sensitize new potential sources of funding; - Upgrade all paralegals' knowledge and skills; - Pilot new models of paralegals service delivery; - Hold public lectures to local communities by paralegals and initiate community - development projects; - Leadership course - send 5 paralegals to the leadership course; - Exchange visits for paralegals, experts, and lawyers; - Develop the policy paper on paralegal institutionalization; - Develop the Strategy and the action plan of Paralegal Association.

	- Deliver primary legal aid and empowerment to vulnerable people.						
Summary for Board Reports (100 words)	During 2016, SFM is planning firstly to assess the legal needs of the youth and then to update all the training materials and the Internet platform according to the assessment's results. In cooperation with NLAC, we aim to increase the number of paralegals up to 42, of which 10 paralegals will be specialized in delivering special legal aid to vulnerable groups. Community paralegals will be supported by a team of hand-picked lawyers and a mobile legal clinic. Afterwards, our efforts will be oriented towards developing a Paralegal Association and institutionalization of paralegal profession. In the first year, we plan to share in the Shared Framework our knowledge on evaluating the legal needs and the legislation on primary legal aid.						
Collaborating Programs within OSF and essential partners or grantees	a. OSF – shared framework participating units; OSJI, HRI, other thematic programs; b. Non-OSF partners - Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, National Legal Aid Council, Legal Commission of the Parliament, Local Public Administrations, CSOs, Academia, donor community present on Moldova c. Non-OSF funding sources – Moldovan Government						
Contributions expected from Collaborating Programs (250 words)	a. SFM would be eager to get assistance from OSF units on developing technical solutions (ex. mobile application) for legal aid services to reach the remote areas, get knowledge on institutionalization, financing and methods of involvement of local public authorities in the legal empowerment process. We expect the OSJI to guide the research processes related to this Shared Framework. b. The SFM will share Moldova's experience of paralegal recognition in the law, its knowledge on developing the training materials and the Internet Platform for paralegals, the methodology and results of the legal needs assessment, by-laws on paralegals activity, the concept and modus operandi of the mobile legal clinic, and modus operandi and successful cases of the paralegals back-up team. The sharing can be done by either briefings uploaded on a dedicated internet platform or exchange visits and expert meetings. c. We think that it will be useful to work jointly with other OSF units in developing the concept and content of the leadership course for paralegals. We are very interested in organizing sharing events on developing/piloting technological solutions for legal aid services. Sharing capacity building methods and resources for paralegals and other justice service providers by organizing study visits for paralegals, lawyers, and experts in partner countries will contribute both the visiting and the receiving countries.						
Statement of who within OSF would guide the work	Soros Foundation-Moldova Victor Munteanu , Justice Program Director, vmunteanu@soros.md Elena Vacarciuc , Finance Director, evacarciuc@soros.md Marcel Varmari , Justice Program & Finance Manager, mvarmari@soros.md Viorica Palamarciuc , Justice Program Assistant & Coordinator, vpalarciuc@soros.md						
Approver (Lead) (See list on Reserve Funds KARL)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Name</td><td>Zaza Namoradze</td></tr> <tr> <td>Date</td><td>March 1, 2016</td></tr> <tr> <td>Approved</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Name	Zaza Namoradze	Date	March 1, 2016	Approved	
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Approver (Lead) Notes / Comments (Optional) <i>(To be completed by approver only)</i>		
Urgency level for grant approval & payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Rapid Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Rapid Response <i>(See procedure on KARL)</i>
If approved, where to allocate the budget? <i>(If the budget is split between multiple programs, please copy/paste this section as needed.)</i>	Amount	251,495.00 USD
	Category of Work	LXXS000 : SHARED FRAMEWORK : Legal Empowerment
	Division/Program Code	18006: Operations Reserve : Shared Frameworks : Legal Empowerment
	Entity <i>(i.e., FPOS, ZUG)</i>	ZUG - FOSI
	Fund Class <i>(i.e., Lobbying/Non- Lobbying)</i>	Non-Lobbying
	Geography <i>(of benefit)</i>	CEEU.MD